

Message Text

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ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DLOS-04

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-11 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAL-01 /113 W

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R 012348Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3338

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 2728

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, MX

SUBJECT: 200 MILES AND US-MEXICAN FISHERIES

REF (A) STATE 45487, (B) STATE 42830

1. ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR AND FISHATT MET MARCH 1 WITH UNDERSECY JORGE CASTANEDA AND AMB GONZALEZ DE LEON TO EXPRESS US CONCERN THAT MEXICAN AND US TIMETABLES REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE ARE OUT OF PHASE. UNDERSECY CASTANEDA SAID THAT MEXICO INTENDS TO BEGIN FULL ENFORCEMENT OF ITS ECONOMIC ZONE BEGINNING JUNE 4, THAT THERE WAS NOT WAY THIS COULD BE DELAYED AND THAT IF WE SHOULD FORMALLY ASK FOR POSTPONEMENT IN IMPLEMENTATION ANSWER WOULD HAVE TO BE NO.

2. POINTS IN REFTTEL B WERE RAISED CONCERNING HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES. 50 PERCENT CREW REQUIREMENT, AND EXCLUSION OF SHRIMP TO ANYONE BUT MEXICAN COOPERATIVES. UNDERSECY CASTANEDA SAID THAT GOM WAS WELL AWARE THAT THESE WERE POINTS WHICH WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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TROUBLESOME TO USG AND THAT TASK FORCE WAS NOW AT WORK DRAFTING

NEW LEGISLATION THAT WOULD SOVLE SOME OF THESE PROBLEMS. HE ALSO SAID THAT SOME OF THESE QUESTIONS WILL BE ADDRESSED AT MARCH 8 NEW YORK CONFERENCE ON HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES AND AT LOS CONFERENCE LATER IN MARCH.

3. UNDERSECY CASTANEDA SAID THAT REGARDLESS OF OUTCOME OF LOS CONFERENCE IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO HAVE BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON FISHING RIGHTS. HE SAID THAT IS HIS OPINION PROPER TIME TO BEGIN SUCH NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE MID-APRIL WHEN THERE HAD BEEN TIME TO SEE WHAT PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE IN LOS DISCUSSIONS.

4. AMBASSADOR HAS SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY ON MARCH 4 AND PLANS CONFIRM INTEREST OF USG IN ABOVE.

5. COMMENT: IN REPLY TO OUR EXPLICIT STATEMENTS THAT ARRANGEMENTS HAD TO BE WORKED OUT BEFORE JUNE 4 WHEN MEXICANS MIGHT START ARRESTING US FISHING BOATS, CASTANEDA KEPT REASSURING US THAT EVERYTHING WAS GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT. NEVERTHELESS, WE CAME AWAY FROM MEETING WITH UNEASY FEELING THAT GOM REALLY NOT FOCUSING ON PROBLEM AND THAT USG WILL HAVE TO ORK HARD BETWEEN NOW AND JUNE 4 TO AVOID REAL PROBLEMS.
CALDERHEAD

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